Celeb Pg 26

Lohan fishing for Phelps date?

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VANCOUVER • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 metronews.ca

Money Pg 12

Never too early to learn its value

Harper set to launch election: Dion

POLITICS Canadians look to be heading for a third election in four years after Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion blamed each other after an unproductive 20-minute meeting in Ottawa yesterday.

Asked if there was going to be an election, Dion replied: "Oh yes. We all know that ... he had decided that anyway."

Harper aides have already pointed to Oct. 14 as a likely date.

"The reason he mentioned — that Parliament is not working — is only a charade, it's a fake," Dion said. "He's doing it ... because he doesn't want Canadians to have too much time to see how ill-prepared he is to face the economy."

Opinion polls show the most likely result of an election now would be another minority Conservative government. REUTERS

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 6

World pg 10

New Orleans dodges bullet

SocialEyes pg 18

Pirates take on a cause

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RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Pobhinder Mann, chairperson with Local 1203 of the BCEGU, was among the hundreds of protesters railing against Premier Gordon Campbell's policies outside the Vancouver Art Gallery yesterday.

Hundreds protest at Labour Day rally

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Survival is the biggest issue facing working families in the province, the head of the B.C. Federation of Labour (BCFL) told a Labour Day rally of about 400 people yesterday at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Jim Sinclair, president of the BCFL, blasted B.C.'s carbon tax, an $8-an-hour minimum wage and a loss of 11,000 high-paying lumber-related jobs as contributors to growing poverty in the province.

"The minimum wage has been frozen for seven years — that's obscene," Sinclair said. "At the same time that (Premier Gordon Campbell) is raising his wages over 50 per cent. British Columbians are getting really angry about this and they should be, because it's wrong."

> **"The minimum wage has been frozen for seven years — that's obscene."**
> President of BCFL Jim Sinclair

The crowd outside the art gallery waved flags representing various unions and associations. Others had placards reading: "Stop Stephen Harper, Tax profits not people" or "Stop the B.C. Liberal Sell Out, Save our forest jobs."

A convoy of honking semi-trucks rumbled by the art gallery as an airplane flew overhead trailing a banner calling for the minimum wage to be raised to $10.

Fuel costs

• A convoy of truck drivers slowly drove their semis from Surrey to Downtown Vancouver yesterday to protest the high-cost of fuel.

Dotting the crowd were eight Lower Mainland NDP MLAs, one NDP MP and a number of federal candidates.

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Palin confirms daughter, 17, pregnant

POLITICS The 17-year-old unmarried daughter of U.S. Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin is pregnant, Palin said yesterday in an announcement intended to knock down rumours by liberal bloggers that Palin faked her own pregnancy to cover up for her child.

Bristol Palin, one of Alaska Gov. Palin's five children with her husband Todd, is about five months pregnant and is going to keep the child and marry the father, the Palins said in a statement released by the campaign of U.S. Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

"Bristol and the young man she will marry are going to realize very quickly the difficulties of raising a child, which is why they will have the love and support of our entire family," the statement said.

Senior McCain campaign officials said McCain knew of the daughter's pregnancy when he selected Palin last week as his vice presidential running mate, deciding that it did not disqualify the 44-year-old governor in any way. REUTERS

JOHN GRESS/REUTERS

Bristol Palin, the 17-year-old daughter of U.S. Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, holds her brother Trig at the campaign event where her mother was named as Republican presidential candidate John McCain's running mate in Dayton, Ohio, August 29, 2008.

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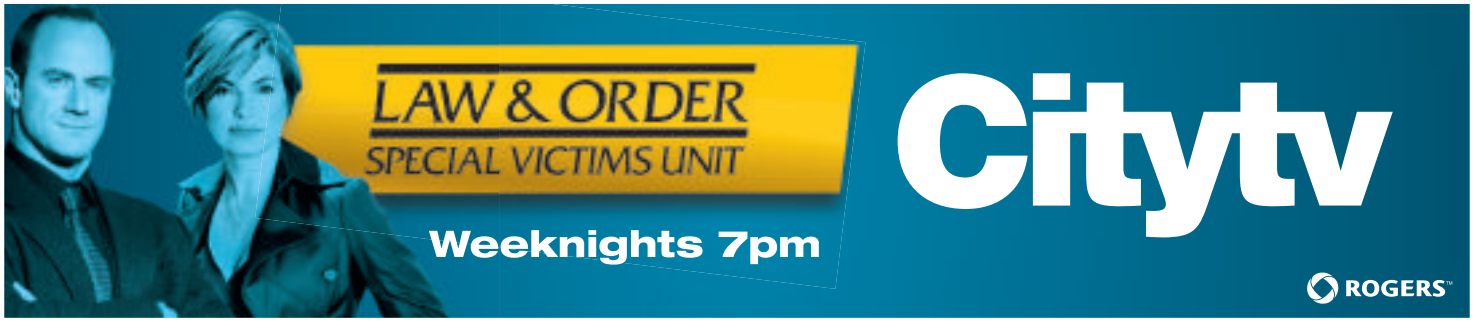
Transsexual activist to file rights complaint against city
A transsexual social activist known for her work on the Downtown Eastside is preparing a human rights complaint against the city's governing party after it rejected her as a parks board candidate. Jamie Lee Hamilton said interviews with two board members of the Non-Partisan Association focused on her sex life. CBC.CA/BC

Local

Tofino to pay for tsunami sirens

Tofino, known as the surfing capital of B.C., is raising its own funds for tsunami warning sirens after failing to receive federal funding. Several small earthquakes occurred off the coast of Vancouver Island last week but no tsunami was triggered. METRO VANCOUVER



Cabbing it to the Games?

NPA stresses need for taxis

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The Non-Partisan Association wants 130 more taxis on Vancouver streets before the Olympics to curb the city's chronic cab shortage.

Coun. Peter Ladner, mayoral hopeful and chair of the NPA's caucus, said Vancouver is underserved by taxis when compared to other cities.

"Taxis are an essential part of transportation choice in the city," Ladner said. "The more choices people have, the more efficient our transportation system is."

In March 2007, city staff estimated that there was one cab for every 1,258 people in Vancouver, and recommended creating 243 more taxi licences.

More than 100 taxi licences were issued in the city in 2007.

In a letter that will be sent today to the Passenger Transportation Board — the independent tribunal that approves taxi applications — Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan is asking board members to support the city's request for an additional 130 licences.

"More taxis are needed as part of our preparations for 2010," Sullivan wrote in a draft letter to the board. "The months leading up to February 2010 will feature a record number of special events all across Vancouver and an increased demand for transportation services downtown and in the entertainment district."

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PNE Swinging into a new school year

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

The 2008 PNE fair winds down yesterday as thousands of families take in the last day of the exhibition before children return to the classroom. The new school year starts today.

Man accused of driving into restaurant in court

MURDER A 51-year-old Maple Ridge man will appear in court today charged with murder after two women were killed when a truck drove through a sushi restaurant in Maple Ridge.

Brain Craig Irving is charged with second-degree murder in the deaths of Maija Liisa Corbett, 19, and Hyeshim Oh, 46, after he allegedly smashed his pick-up into Halo Sushi in Westgate Mall just after 6 p.m. on Thursday. Corbett was dining at the restaurant. Oh was an employee, but was not working, RCMP said.

Irving also faces six counts of attempted murder in the incident that injured four others.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

SHOOTING A 29-year-old man was killed in a taxi during a drive-by-shooting on Commercial Drive. James Edward O'Toole was shot after leaving a restaurant early Saturday morning. Vancouver Police Const. Jana McGuinness said O'Toole was likely targeted.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read Allan Small's Investment Perspective on why bonds are a safe and opportunistic investment when the markets are down
Check Highlights and pictures from Seattle's annual Bumbershoot music and arts festival.
Play online Crosswords!

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Put that in your pipe
Hookah lounges have been told by Vancouver Coastal Health they are violating the city's anti-smoking bylaw and must shut down. METRO VANCOUVER

Greens have a seat

Independent B.C. MP joined party to give it a voice in Commons

KRISTEN THOMPSON
for Metro Vancouver

Vancouver-area Independent Member of Parliament Blair Wilson has joined the Green Party, giving it its first seat in the House of Commons.

Wilson

The former Liberal politician is the MP for West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country.

He said yesterday that by joining the Green Party, he will be giving it a much-needed voice in Parliament.

"There is a democratic deficit in our system right now," said Wilson.

"We have 1.5 million people in Canada right now supporting the Green Party … and are unable to have a seat in the House of Commons."

With a Green MP sitting in the House, the party will be able to take part in the televised leaders' debate in the next federal election campaign.

Last year, Wilson was forced out of the Liberal caucus after allegations surfaced about spending irregularities in his 2006 campaign.

Elections Canada cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Wilson said he joined the Green Party because its values coincide with his.

"Their social justice platform, the fact that they want to end poverty and create a national minimum level of income is very progressive and bodes well with the people within my riding," he said.

New role

- Blair Wilson will join the Green Party's Shadow Cabinet as Immigration Critic.

Survey says unions losing relevance

Almost half of all Canadians believe unions are losing their relevance, according to a survey released yesterday (Labour Day) by the Canadian LabourWatch Association.

The survey found that 46 per cent of Canadians question the relevance of labour unions, up eight per cent from a similar survey five years earlier.

John Mortimer, president of Vancouver-based LabourWatch, said 77 per cent of non-unionized Canadians don't want to be unionized and 27 per cent of unionized workers want out of their union.

> **"There is close to a third that are questioning and don't want to be (part of the union)."**
> John Mortimer, LabourWatch

"Unions still enjoy about 70 per cent support among the people they represent," said Mortimer. "But there is close to a third that are questioning and don't want to be (part of the union)."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

45,000 pot plants seized in raid

DRUG BUST Nine Lower Mainland men have been arrested after RCMP raided eight marijuana grow-ops in a small community near Williams Lake.

The year-long investigation culminated in the search and seizure of eight properties in Likely, where police seized roughly 45,000 marijuana plants.

Const. Craig Douglass said some of the buildings appeared to have been modified or custom-built to grow marijuana.

"All of the properties are associated to the same, unnamed, organized crime group," he said in a media release yesterday.

The accused are from Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. They will appear in Williams Lake Provincial Court Sept. 10. METRO VANCOUVER

Extra time needed for September commute

Give yourself some extra time to get to work and school this morning.

The week after Labour Day is one of the busiest on Lower Mainland roads with thousands of students and staff heading back to school.

To combat the commuter crunch, TransLink has added 78,000 hours of bus service.

Two new routes, the 33 and the C19, are aimed at easing congestion along the busy east-west corridors running to the University of B.C. The C19 Alma/UBC will provide hourly service along Southwest Marine Drive.

The 33 from the 29th Avenue SkyTrain will run along 33rd Avenue and 16th Avenue weekdays, with service every 15 minutes.

Service has also been expanded on some of the busiest routes. The 44 UBC/Downtown will have a bus running every 20 minutes, up from 30 minutes.

Weekday service also goes up to every 20 minutes on the 143 SFU/Coquitlam Station bus.

Additional trips will arrive at stops near Langara College in time for morning classes on the 49 Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop/UBC bus.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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News in brief

APOLOGY Abbotsford Police have apologized to the family of a 52-year-old woman found dead in her apartment almost 12 hours after a 9-1-1 hang up call. Officers were not dispatched to the home until the next morning where they arrested the woman's husband Daniel Raymond Casgrain, 54.

LAUNCH The Vancouver Organizing Committee opened the Sea To Sky Volunteer Centre in Squamish yesterday. VANOC held a parking lot party with sport demonstrations, the 2010 mascots, live music and food to celebrate the event.

CHARGES Two Abbotsford men have been charged with second-degree murder in connection with a stabbing in May. Shavinder Singh Brar, 21, and Amrit Singh Gill, 20, were arrested Friday after a three-month long investigation into the death of Harmin Hans, 18.

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Swissair memorial set for today

A memorial ceremony for the victims of Swissair Flight 111 will take place today in Peggy's Cove, N.S.. Two memorials to the flight victims were established in the province. One memorial is located at Whalesback, near the crash site at Peggy's Cove. The other is near Bayswater Beach Provincial Park. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Quebec toughens gun laws

Quebec's new gun control legislation, Bill 9, came into force yesterday. The legislation is dubbed Anastasia's law in memory of 18-year-old Anastasia DeSousa, who was killed during the September 2006 Dawson College shooting. The law bans the possession of firearms in schools and daycare centres, and on public and school transportation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leaders fighting to keep their jobs

POLITICS When an election campaign starts, three of Canada's political leaders will be fighting for more than seats. They could be fighting to keep their jobs.

Layton

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, NDP Leader Jack Layton and even Prime Minister Stephen Harper could each find himself forced out of his party's top job if election results prove disappointing.

"There's actually huge risks for all these guys. Probably the greatest for Dion," said pollster Frank Graves, president of EKOS Research. "He has the grim possibility of going to the electorate the first time and striking out."

Polls continue to show that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives have a clear edge going into the election, making the outcome risky even for Harper.

"Will he definitely do way better this time? I don't know. That to me is an iffy proposition," Graves said.

The control Harper and the Tories have exhibited make the leader's future at the head of the party appear more certain, and insiders say that he'll have a mandate to stay if he wins a stronger minority.

Dion

Of all three leaders, Jack Layton appears the most secure.

"Layton has been consistently polling ahead of Dion, and even (Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles) Duceppe in Quebec. If that's Jack Layton's greatest asset, why the heck would he not put it at the top of his campaign?"

But Layton would face pressure to step aside if his personal popularity doesn't translate into more seats, Graves said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PAUL DARROW/REUTERS

Mourners stand at the Swissair Flight 111 Memorial in Peggy's Cove, N.S., yesterday. Flight 111 crashed of the coast of Nova Scotia on Sept. 2, 1998, killing all 229 people aboard.

Anger over Swissair remains

ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Canada

Anger is audible in Lyn Romano's voice as she explains that a decade after her husband was killed in the crash of Swissair Flight 111, she hasn't gotten over the pain.

"It doesn't matter, 10 years, 20 years, it's raw; it's very raw," she says in a phone interview from her Westchester, N.Y. home.

Today marks the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 2, 1998 crash of the passenger jetliner carrying 229 people from New York City to Geneva, Switzerland.

"It doesn't matter, 10 years, 20 years, it's raw; it's very raw."
Lyn Romano

The McDonnell-Douglas MD-11 slammed into the ocean off the coast of Nova Scotia — about 53 minutes into the flight — after an on-board fire blazed out of control, causing a succession of system failures in the aircraft.

All 215 passengers and 14 crew members were killed on impact.

The devastating crash resulted in a number of safety improvements in the aviation industry.

But the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada — and the wife of Ray Romano, seat 19C — maintain it's not enough.

In March 2003, the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada released a final report on the investigation into the crash which listed 23 recommendations for regulators of the industry — only two of which have been adopted.

News in brief

ATV ATTACK RCMP in Valleyview, Alta., have laid several charges against a 31-year-old man after the driver of an all-terrain vehicle was allegedly doused with gasoline and threatened with being set on fire on Saturday evening. Police gave no reason for the attack.

PROTEST Aboriginal protesters are clearing a blockade of Highway 6 in Caledonia, Ont., hours after the barrier was set up. Protesters dragged a hydro tower across the highway early Monday morning in response to the arrest of three men from a local reserve.

PLANE CRASH Three people were injured, two of them critically, after their small plane crashed in a farmer's field north of Toronto early yesterday morning. Officials said the Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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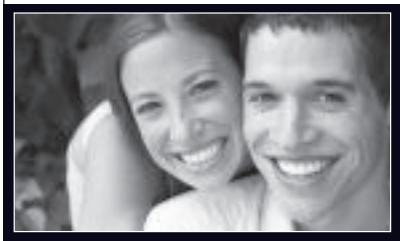

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2153 Springfield Rd.
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44 – 3155 Lakeshore Rd.

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Public Health defends action on listeriosis

Canada's chief public health officer says he is satisfied with how his agency handled the recent listeria outbreak, despite a month-long delay before the public was notified of the potential problem.

"I think we told people what they needed to know as soon as we knew," Dr. David Butler-Jones, of the Public Health Agency of Canada, said yesterday. "I have no qualms about the timing."

David-Butler Jones

Butler-Jones spoke to Torstar News Service in response to a recent article which questioned why the public had not been informed of the deadly outbreak sooner. Though the agency learned of the rash of listeriosis cases in mid-July, the first public notice didn't go out until Aug. 20.

"I think we told people what they needed to know as soon as we knew ... I have no qualms about the timing."
Dr. David Butler-Jones, Public Health Agency

But Butler-Jones said that amount of time was needed to conduct the necessary tests to determine if a spate of cases were connected, or just a random surge.

The agency typically receives reports of two or three cases of listeriosis spread out across the country each week, he noted. At the height of the outbreak, it received five reported cases for three consecutive weeks. Each day, more than 20,000 Canadians exhibit the symptoms common to listeriosis, Butler-Jones said, which include headaches, vomiting and diarrhea

At that point, the agency started suspecting the cases might be linked, but hadn't yet determined where they were coming from. Though several had been tied to deli sandwiches served in nursing homes, that wasn't enough to tell people what foods, if any, should be avoided, Butler-Jones said.

What wasn't considered, he said, was the possibility of being sued for misidentifying the bacteria's source. "I don't even think about lawsuits," said the 25-year veteran of the public health field. "That was never a consideration."

In the end, he said, "it's hard to see what we would have done differently."

As of last night, 38 cases had been tied to the strain of the disease that originated from Maple Leaf cold cuts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa **Firing up the festivities**

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO CANADA

Brigitte Johnston, centre, gets ready for take-off at a hot air balloon festival in Gatineau, Que., over the weekend. The 21st edition of the festival, which wrapped up yesterday, drew thousands of spectators

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Detailed program information is available at www.thenew2.ca.

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Brazil's intelligence leaders suspended amid wiretapping accusations

The Brazilian president suspended the leaders of Brazil's intelligence agency yesterday after it was accused of spying on the Supreme Court chief and members of Congress. The agency published parts of a wiretapped conversation between the Supreme Court President and a congress member this spring. REUTERS

World

Ads don't sell prescriptions

Expensive advertising of prescription drugs directly to consumers may do little to encourage sales, U.S. and Canadian researchers reported on Monday. They said that even though companies spent an estimated $3 billion in 2005 on such ads in the United States, they did not appear to result in more prescriptions. REUTERS

Storm slams Louisiana

Rebuilt levees hold out as Gustav hits New Orleans

Hurricane Gustav slammed ashore on the U.S. Gulf Coast just west of New Orleans yesterday but rebuilt levees appeared to hold floodwaters out of the city devastated by Katrina in 2005.

Gustav weakened before hitting land with 110 mph winds, easing fears it would be another Katrina, whose floodwaters burst protective levees, swamping 80 percent of New Orleans and stranding thousands of people.

Gustav's powerful storm surge pushed tons of water into the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain and New Orleans canals, putting pressure on barriers that were repaired or reconstructed after failing three years ago and prompting a tense watch for signs it would happen again.

Water flowed over flood walls and spurted through cracks in the vulnerable barrier system.

Six inches of water pooled in some streets near the New Orleans Industrial Canal and officials cautioned that while the levees had not been breached, they were still in danger.

But some residents emerged from boarded up homes relieved to find only broken tree branches and toppled signs.

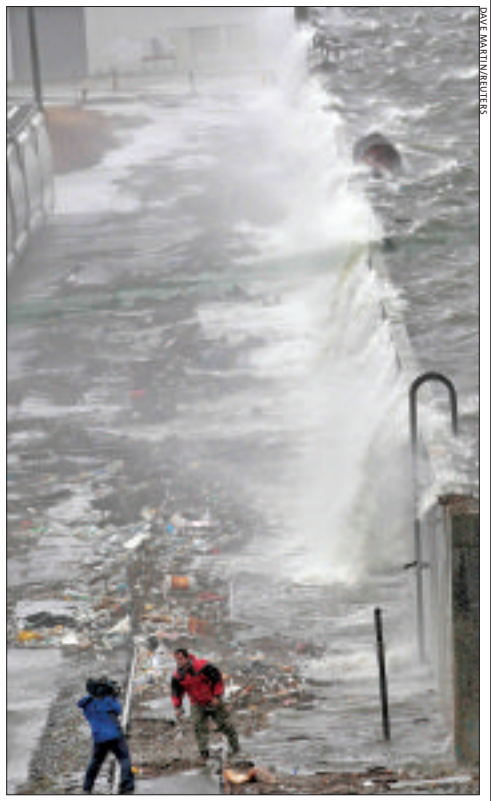
"We'll still get some nasty weather but we've dodged a big-time bullet with this one," said stockbroker Peter Labouisse, sitting on the porch of his home, which was shuttered and without power.

About 750,000 customers were without electricity.

Late last night, Gustav was downgraded to a tropical storm as it made its way further inland. REUTERS

Oil reserves sought

- Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called on the federal government to release emergency crude oil supplies to counteract fuel shortages due to Hurricane Gustav. "We know we are going to need this fuel by Thursday," Jindal said.



DAVE MARTIN/REUTERS

A television crew makes a report from the flood wall along the Industrial Canal in the Ninth Ward in New Orleans, La. yesterday.

HPV vaccine can cause rare reaction, study says

HEALTH Young women in Australia who got a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer were five to 20 times more likely to have a rare but severe allergic reaction than girls who got other vaccines in comparable vaccination programs, researchers said yesterday.

They said the severe allergic reactions to the human papillomavirus vaccine were unusual and manageable, and that the vaccine remained safe.

The researchers studied 114,000 young women vaccinated with Merck & Co's Gardasil vaccine. Of these, 12 had suspected cases of anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can cause difficulty breathing, nausea and rashes, they reported in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Eight out of the 12 young women had confirmed anaphylactic reactions after getting the vaccine, for an estimated rate of reaction of 2.6 per 100,000 doses.

Brotherton and colleagues suspect the higher rates could be due to better surveillance programs to watch for such reactions, the higher tendency for women to have such reactions compared with men and an apparent rise in the incidence of anaphylaxis in Australia. REUTERS

News in brief

MEXICO Miners in Mexico held a one-hour walkout Monday to support anti-government protests but metals production was not hit, the country's mining chamber said. Some 20 sections of the union laid down their tools in the silver- and gold-producing states of Guanajuato, Zacatecas and Durango for the first hour of each work shift. The stoppages were to support marches by national health, university and oil workers against the policies of conservative President Felipe Calderon.

ENGLAND British police charged a fourth man with terrorism offences yesterday over threats to kill Prime Minister Gordon Brown posted on a militant Islamist website. Three other men were charged last week in connection with the case, and a fifth man remains in custody. REUTERS

Georgians rally against Russia

CONFLICT One-fifth of the population of Georgia protested yesterday against Russian military action and the Kremlin's backing for the country's separatist regions.

Protesters waved the country's red-and-white flag and linked arms in the capital city of Tbilisi.

Countrywide, more than 1 million people took part in a show of unity after Russia this month crushed a Georgian bid to retake breakaway South Ossetia from separatists.

The figure would account for more than a fifth of the Black Sea state's 4.5 million population.

"Today we can say that Georgia is not alone, because the whole world is standing beside us," President Mikheil Saakashvili told a crowd gathered in Tbilisi's Freedom Square. REUTERS

Hurricane shadows Republican convention

POLITICS Republicans opened their convention Monday in a somber mood, with Hurricane Gustav's assault shifting a shortened opening session of the convention from politics to storm relief.

First lady Laura Bush and John McCain's wife Cindy urged Americans to help victims of the hurricane and said it was time to put aside politics.

"Our first priority now, today, is to ensure the safety and the well-being of those living in the Gulf Coast region," Laura Bush told the convention.

"When such events occur we're reminded that first we are all Americans and our shared American ideals will always transcend political partisanship."

Fearing televised images of Republican festivities would be inappropriate as the storm slammed the Gulf Coast, McCain and his party limited the session to formal convention business and appeals for hurricane aid.

"Together we can accomplish so much to help those who have been affected," Cindy McCain said, joining Laura Bush on stage.

John McCain, 72, visited a disaster relief drop-off center in Waterville, Ohio, helping to pack cleaning materials, sponges, rubber gloves and other items into buckets labelled "Hurricane Gustav Relief Supplies."

"Thanks for your hard work," the Arizona senator said to volunteers packing the buckets on long tables. REUTERS

Republican clash

- Riot police confronted a few hundred protestors who smashed a storefront and threw bottles at police Monday in St. Paul, Minn., where the Republican convention is taking place. The violent group broke off from a larger, peaceful anti-Republican march.

JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

Cindy McCain, right, wife of Republican presidential candidate John McCain, looks at first lady Laura Bush after their joint speech to the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota.

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Oil drops $4 as weakened Gustav hits U.S. Gulf Coast
Oil plunged more than $4 yesterday as concerns that Hurricane Gustav would cause lasting damage to the U.S. oil sector eased after the storm weakened before hitting the Louisiana coast. REUTERS

Business

Gustav prompts free Internet
U.S. cellphone company T-Mobile has announced that it will offer free wireless Internet service to those in the areas most affected by Hurriance Gustav. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

POLITICS Turkey began curbing Russian imports yesterday in retaliation for delays Turkish exporters have suffered at Russian border crossings as tensions over Georgia strained NATO'S relations with Moscow.

AFGHANISTAN A reality TV show broadcast in Afghanistan has encouraged Afghans to start their own enterprises, stirring business spirits in a country that has been ravaged by three decades of war. REUTERS

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Metro is the world's largest newspaper, with more than 20 million daily readers in 100 major cities in 21 countries. metronews.ca

Gustav less costly than Katrina

Hurricane Gustav, which came ashore southwest of New Orleans yesterday, is expected to trigger significant insurance claims but far less than record-setting Katrina did three years ago.

"This is a significant, catastrophic event, but insurers anticipate these, and Gustav will be manageable from a financial perspective," said Robert Hartwig, president of the Insurance Information Institute, an industry-funded non-profit organization in New York.

EQECAT Inc, which helps insurers model catastrophe risk, said it estimated insurance losses from Hurricane Gustav, after it made landfall, will range from $6 billion to $10 billion, primarily in the state of Louisiana.

Damage to oil platforms and wells will range from $1 billion to $3 billion, Risk Management Solutions said. REUTERS

Peugeot mulls low-cost brand

AUTO French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen is considering launching a new brand in Europe for its low-cost vehicles, La Tribune reported yesterday without identifying its sources. It said the group was considering re-importing into western Europe future low-cost models made in emerging economies and was looking at a new brand to market the vehicles. REUTERS

Book launch Conspiracy theory

JOHANNES EISELE/REUTERS

Canadian journalist Declan Hill presents his book The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime during a news conference in Berlin.

Shoe industrialist Thomas Bata dead

BATA Thomas Bata, the Czech-born industrialist who headed the global shoe empire bearing his family's name from the 1940s to the 1980s, has died in Toronto, aged 93, the CBC reported yesterday.

Bata, son of the privately owned company's founder, came to Canada to expand the family business, starting production in 1940. REUTERS

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Money: It's child's play

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong
WILL RETURN

In brief

WEEKEND SPENDER

On average, Newfoundlanders spend the most money on their long weekends, with 38 per cent of respondents saying they spend more than a $1,000 on a single long weekend excursion. Other big spenders include the Yukon (60 per cent) and British Columbia (37 per cent) whose residents said they spend between $500 and $1,000. The most thrifty long weekend spenders come from Manitoba, P.E.I., New Brunswick and Ontario where the majority of respondents said they spend less than $200 on a long weekend getaway.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Investing

Allan Small

Allan Small looks at some bonds with good returns. Read this week's column at metronews.ca

Your children are back to school this week and while they'll be studying up on math equations, science problems and social studies, they probably won't be learning about financial responsibility — cash, credit and consumerism. Smart Cookies say it's never too early to start talking about money. Below are some of our favourite suggestions to get the conversation started about how to save, grow and spend our cash wisely.

Allowance and Spending Decisions

• Giving children an allowance is a great way to show and tell your children about the value of money. The general Smart Cookie rule is $1 per year, per week. For example, if your child is six years old, then they would receive $6 per week. When giving children allowances, it's a good idea to give them the money in denominations that encourage saving. For example, your six-year-old could be given six loonies per week to keep in three different piggy banks — one for long-term savings, one for special purchases and one for charitable giving.

• Children take great pride in having their own bank account; this is also a great way to encourage good saving habits.

• Give your children room to make their own spending decisions. Have conversations before a purchase to weigh out the pros and cons, but ultimately give them room to make choices.

Teaching through Example

• When using a credit card at a restaurant, take the opportunity to teach children about how credit cards work. Dispel the myths that surround these pieces of plastic and explain to children how the card works, how to calculate the tip, and how you will pay this purchase off.

• Smart Cookies buy and follow stocks of companies that we are familiar with and whose products and services we use. If you want to take your financial lessons a bit further, pick a few companies your children like (toy companies, for example) and follow the stocks with your child.

• Encourage your child to take a part-time job. If he or she is too young, then perhaps your child could become a mini-entrepreneur and cut grass, shovel driveways or sell lemonade to make some extra spending money.

• Start a money group for your family. Money groups are incredibly helpful for younger children. During this time you can have open discussions about how they are doing with their saving and talk about their goals, what they are saving for and how you can help or offer suggestions on reaching that goal sooner.

Money Basics

• Introduce the idea of saving and spending. Try to explain and demonstrate the concept of earning interest on savings and paying interest on debt.

• Talk to your children about the differences between "wants" and "needs". After children are clear about the differences they will be able to make better spending decisions.

If you have questions or comments for the Smart Cookies, please e-mail *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

SmartCookies

smartcookies.com

"When giving children allowances, it's a good idea to give them the money in denominations that encourage saving. For example, your six-year-old could be given six loonies per week to keep in three different piggy banks — one for long term savings, one for special purchases and one for charitable giving."

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

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There are plenty of resources in cyberspace to help students manage loans save cash day-to-day. One of those resources is *canlearn.ca*, where you'll find advice, useful links and interactive tools such as a budget planner and a loan estimator. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Student ¢ents

Spend wisely
Bring a grocery list with you when you shop for food and watch for specials. Try to avoid doing too much shopping at convenience stores because their prices are generally higher. Consider buying generic products, and bring your lunch with you instead of eating out.
MCGILL.CA/STUDENTAID/BUDGET/BUDGETINGTIPSANDTOOLS

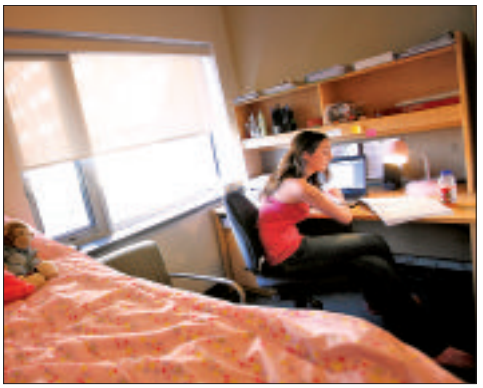
The lowdown on living arrangements

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

You're about to head off to post-secondary school for the first time and you'll be miles away from home. Your school will likely have residences, sure, but that's not your only housing option. You can also rent an apartment or a house by splitting costs with roommates.

There are advantages to both routes, so it helps to determine which fits your needs.

"Most students moving out for the first time are just excited to be out of the house and on their own," says Ian Boyko, campaigns co-ordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students. "It can be a personal choice. Often university campuses can be out of the way of the downtown core, York University (in Toronto) being a prime example of that, and the gregarious types who want to be close to their city's shops and restaurants will often find an apartment downtown and then commute to their school."


TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

In this file photo, a student hits the books at Oscar Peterson Hall, a residence at the University of Toronto's Mississauga Campus.

"Apartments are often less expensive. You don't have a meal plan and you can share costs with a roommate."
Ian Boyko

Boyko argues residences are ideal because they're close to classes, allowing you to hit that glorious snooze button a few more times in the morning than someone who has to commute. It's a good set-up for those entering their first year who have just recently cut the apron strings, says Boyko: You get to know the campus, and develop a social circle more quickly than if you lived away from the school.

"Living in residence is often a good transition step for those first years living away from home for the first time," he said.

In some cases, living in rez is an exclusive (but expensive) option available only to first-years, says Laura Walker, financial adviser at Edward Jones Investments.

"Some (first-years) are coming from small towns to live in a big city," said Walker. "(Residence) gives them a sense of the area while they adjust to living on their own."

Such convenience isn't cheap. For example, a single room at the University of British Columbia's Place Vanier residence costs $4,252 per school year, without the compulsory meal plan, which at some schools will run you more than $2,000.

On the web
- Visit nation-wide housing site *homes4students.ca* for a comprehensive directory of available apartments and residences near you.

But that tab is modest compared to some: A single room with mandatory meal plan at the University of Toronto's Chestnut Residence costs an eye-popping $13,475 for the school year.

Time for the frugal to consider off-campus options. An apartment may suit your budget and is, in most instances, less restrictive. Feel like chicken wings and tacos tonight? Indulge away, there's no fixed meal plan telling you what you can eat and when.

Want to stumble in at 3 a.m. without being hassled by campus security? Do it, so long as you don't wake the neighbours.

But with greater freedom comes more responsibility. You handle the rent, food and utility bills — a bit easier if you've got someone living with you to split the cost.

"Apartments are often less expensive," Boyko said. "You don't have a meal plan and you can share costs with a roommate. Often after a year of living in residence, a second-year student may tire of shared showers and toilets and opt for something of their own."

Don't wait until you're out of money to start budgeting

PLANNING For many students, going to college or university is the first time they really have to budget their money. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian full-time undergraduate students paid an average of $4,524 in tuition fees in the 2007/2008 academic year.

Depending on your location and habits, the cost of living on your own for an eight-month academic year will probably fall in the neighbourhood of $10,000 to $15,000. Don't wait until you're out of money to start budgeting or you'll end up with a stomach full of instant noodles and nothing else.

Before school, make a list of things you'll need, and have friends and family check the list for things you've forgotten or you can do without.

Calculate your cost of living and the supplies you will need for the school year — the basic cost of tuition, books, rent, utilities and food is a good place to start. Budget enough to cover these requirements and then pay yourself an allowance for recreation.

Don't beat yourself up if you blow your weekly budget at some point during the year.

If you overspend during a night out, recognize your entertainment budget has been used up — skip the next video game you were going to buy or spend the next couple of weekends catching up on reading.

Eating out can add up quickly as well, so learn to cook or pack snacks. Also, try leaving your credit card at home; it's surprising how much harder it is to splurge that way.

Even if you are sticking to your budget, you need to make the most of your resources.

Do research and consult deal web sites such as *Red FlagDeals.com* before making purchases to maximize savings, because when emergencies hit, they can hit hard.

A beer shortage or lack of the latest clothes is not an emergency, but having to travel home unexpectedly or having to replace something important like text books, a computer, or car brakes can be.

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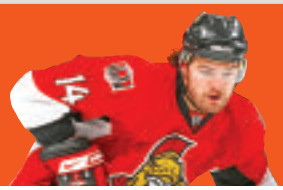
NFL

The Detroit Lions have reportedly signed free agent running back Rudi Johnson to a one-year contract. The Detroit Free Press indicated yesterday that Johnson will likely replace Tatum Bell as rookie running back Kevin Smith's backup. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Bolts lock up Meszaros

The Tampa Bay Lightning have signed newly acquired defenceman Andrej Meszaros, left, to a six-year contract. Meszaros was acquired from the Ottawa Senators on Friday in exchange for defencemen Filip Kuba and Alexandre Picard, as well as a first-round draft pick in 2009.
Metro News Services

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Williams sisters set up showdown

TENNIS The Williams sisters will hold another family reunion on centre court at the U.S. Open after registering wins yesterday that set up a tiebreaking, sibling clash in the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows.

Venus

Fourth seed Serena routed French wildcard Severine Bremond 6-2, 6-2, while seventh-seeded elder Venus crushed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 6-3 to book the rendezvous.

The sisters are 8-8 in head-to-head matches during their career, and 5-5 against each other on the grand slam stage.

REUTERS

B.C. Sports in brief

CFL The B.C. Lions' already-crowded backfield has the potential to become even more congested. Former Saskatchewan Roughriders' running back Kenton Keith was cut by the Indianapolis Colts on the weekend and has expressed interest in returning to the CFL if he clears NFL waivers. Keith's agent, Jason Medlock, says the Lions are high on Keith's wish list given his relationship with former Riders' GM Roy Shivers, who is currently B.C.'s director of player personnel.

NFL The Seattle Seahawks will be without a pair of defenders for the team's season-opener this Sunday in Buffalo. Defensive tackle Rocky Bernard was suspended one game for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy as a result of his off-season arrest on the charge of domestic assault, for which he was issued a two-year continuance. Defensive back Jordan Babineaux will also miss one game for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

CFL's first half mind-boggling

It's been a wacky season, as favourites flounder and upsets reign

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

When the CFL season kicked off, the Toronto Argonauts were favoured by oddsmakers to win the Grey Cup championship.

Two months later, as they concluded the first half of their season last night, they weren't even favoured to beat the league's perennial dregs in Hamilton.

Well, they defied the odds. The Argos did just enough to defeat the Tiger-Cats 34-31— Toronto's first victory in three games this season with its geographic rivals — and probably saved their coach's job in the process.

As reported first in this space last week, Rich Stubler probably would have been fired as the Argos' coach had the Ticats been able to pull off the trifecta against Toronto.

But, despite a sloppy performance that included a botched field goal, missed tackles and the hot-dogging of a receiver (Arland Bruce) who insisted on placing his face in a Spider-Man mask after scoring a touchdown, the Argos did just enough to emerge triumphant.

And, with a 4-5 record, they're somehow in position to challenge the first-place Montreal Alouettes for Eastern Division supremacy in the second half.

Mind you, if the CFL's second half turns out to be as weird as the first half was, well, who knows?

I was thoroughly perplexed with the first half. I mean, you learn to expect the unexpected in the CFL if you've covered the league for nearly 30 years, but this first half was just too much.

You were psychic if you knew:

- The Edmonton Eskimos would register one more victory in their first nine games this season than they did all last season, when they finished out of the playoffs with a 5-12-1 record. This team was so inept in 2007 that head coach Danny Maciocia could have written a book on how to single-handedly destroy a CFL franchise. Maciocia, though, somehow evaded the firing line and his team has responded with an impressive rebound. In fact, after trouncing the Stampeders in Calgary yesterday, the Esks look very much like the team to beat in the CFL. And Edmonton quarterback Ricky Ray was the league's top player in the first half.
- The Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Eastern Division representatives in the Grey Cup last season, would be the league's worst team, with only two victories.
- The B.C. Lions would be in the Western Division cellar, and star running back Joe Smith would be in their doghouse.
- Montreal would be atop the East with a head coach, Marc Trestman, who had no CFL experience whatsoever.

Yep, it's been weird. Fasten your seatbelts for the second half.

Not many people who have predicted that the Edmonton Eskimos would be 6-3 at the halfway mark of the CFL season. The Esks beat up provincial rivals Calgary Stampeders 37-16 yesterday.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Singh running away with FedEx Cup

GOLF Vijay Singh, helped by three monster birdie putts, eased to his third PGA Tour title in five weeks with a commanding five-shot victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship yesterday.

Singh

Three off the pace overnight, the Fijian world No. 5 fired a superb eight-under-par 63 in difficult, sun-drenched conditions at the TPC Boston for a 22-under total of 262.

Singh broke clear of a congested leaderboard with an outward nine of four-under 32 before tightening his grip with an astonishing putting display on a course running fast and firm.

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., one ahead going into the final round, surrendered the outright lead with a double-bogey at the ninth and had to settle for second place after closing with a 71.

"I feel incredible right now," a beaming Singh said after pocketing the $1.26 million US winner's check for the second week in a row in the lucrative FedEx Cup playoff series.

"It was a tough day and I knew the greens were going to be firm. I drove the ball beautifully and kept the ball in play, never got myself into much trouble.

Singh will now travel to St. Louis for this week's BMW Championship as the runaway FedExCup points leader. **REUTERS**

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 7 Baltimore 4
Cleveland 5 Chicago White Sox 0
N.Y. Yankees 13 Detroit 9
Seattle 12 Texas 6
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Arizona 8 St. Louis 6
Colorado 4 San Francisco 0
Florida 4 Atlanta 3
Houston 3 Chicago Cubs 0
L.A. Dodgers 5 San Diego 2
N.Y. Mets 4 Milwaukee 2
Washington 7 Philadelphia 4

TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Baltimore at Boston, 4:05
L.A. Angels at Detroit, 4:05
Chicago W. Sox at Cleveland, 4:05
Minnesota at Toronto, 4:07
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Seattle at Texas, 5:05
Oakland at Kansas City, 5:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta at Florida, 4:10
Philadelphia at Washington, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 4:10
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 5:05
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 5:05
San Francisco at Colorado, 5:35
St. Louis at Arizona, 6:40
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pedroia Bos	561	106	183	.326
Bradley Tex	365	72	119	.326
Mauer Min	440	83	141	.320
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Youkilis Bos	469	82	149	.318

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pujols StL	440	83	160	.364
Jones Atl	390	72	140	.359
Berkman Hou	478	104	160	.335
Holliday Col	470	97	157	.334
Lee Hou	436	61	137	.314

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	7	2	0	14
Edmonton	6	3	0	12
Calgary	5	4	0	10
B.C.	4	5	0	8

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	6	3	0	12
Toronto	4	5	0	8
Hamilton	2	7	0	4
Winnipeg	2	7	0	4

WEEK 10
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Edmonton 37 Calgary 16
Toronto 34 Hamilton 31
SUNDAY'S RESULT
Saskatchewan 19 Winnipeg 6
FRIDAY'S RESULT
Montreal 30 B.C. 25

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:
SUNDAY'S RESULT
VANCOUVER 1 Puerto Rico 1
FRIDAY'S GAME
VANCOUVER at Puerto Rico, 5

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
VANCOUVER 6 Salem-Keizer 3
TONIGHT'S GAME
VANCOUVER at Salem-Keizer, 6:35

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735 Gore Avenue

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88 West Pender Street

ABBOTSFORD
SKYNET
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Metrotown Centre

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Crystal Mall

UNIPAGE
Crystal Mall
Metrotown Centre

COQUITLAM
UNIPAGE
Henderson Mall

DELTA
WIRELESS WORLD
Scottsdale Mall

LANGLEY
ORANGEWAVE
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MAPLE RIDGE
SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
PEPPER WIRELESS
Royal City Centre

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101A – 2748 Lougheed Highway

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Experts set global cancer plan

Cancer specialists set a plan on Sunday to stem the rise in deaths from cancer by 2020 and ensure that all patients suffering in the late stages of the disease can access painkillers. The road map laid down by 63 experts and policy-makers includes more screening and early detection programs. REUTERS

Health

"Quitting brings people back from isolation. Absolutely."

Rosemary Munro, a Toronto addiction counsellor

Sip for a cause

Fifteen cents from every canister of Tetley Inspire Summerberry herbal tea bearing the pink ribbon ($3.29), left, will be contributed to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Love: Up in smoke

Bad habit can be harmful to relationships too: Survey

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Not only is smoking bad for your health, it's bad for your love life.

A survey recently conducted by Lavalife and McNeil Consumer Healthcare has found that 47 per cent of singles wouldn't consider dating a smoker. "They don't want to kiss someone with the smell of cigarettes," suggests Rosemary Munro, an addiction counsellor in Toronto, Ont.

There are many diseases linked to smoking — cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema, impotence, and mouth diseases. Yet for some young people, those health problems may seem too far in the future to be a threat. Perhaps a more immediate risk — loneliness on Friday night — will spur some to quit.

"They may be more apt to consider stopping for that reason than health," says Munro.

The survey asked 6,313 singles if they were likely to date someone who smokes. Single women, in particular (51 per cent) said they wouldn't want to hook up with a smoker. A slightly lower number of men (43 per cent) found smoking too much of an "ick" factor.

DAVID BEBBER/REUTERS

Forty-seven per cent of singles wouldn't date a smoker, a recent survey suggests.

Smokers who are already part of a couple shouldn't assume their smoking is acceptable to their partner. They may be getting "the talk" sometime soon from their grossed-out significant other. The survey interviewed 4,694 people who are already dating a smoker. A whopping 81 per cent of them said they are likely to ask their partner to quit smoking (58 per cent of them said there are "very likely" to ask). Lavalife is an online dating service. McNeil Consumer Healthcare owns and markets Nicorette gum and lozenges and the Nicoderm patch.

Unlike several decades ago, thanks to public health messages about its dangers, smoking finally has a bad rap socially. "Smokers are really ostracized now," says Munro. "Smoking is a way of isolating oneself. They have to go outside to smoke. They shut themselves away."

Munro helps people overcome addictions such as smoking, many of which serve to insulate people from friends and family. "Quitting brings people back from isolation. Absolutely," she says.

For some, better health may not be a good enough reason to quit smoking, but getting a hot date is. Either way, the benefits are enormous. "If being more available and attractive is enough to motivate them to quit, isn't that great because they're going to benefit health-wise as well," concludes Munro.

An expert's tips on quitting

Giving up cigarettes is not easy, as addiction counsellor Rosemary Munro can attest to.

She quit many years ago, but was only successful on her third try. She has seen others struggle as well. "Quitting cigarettes from my experience working with addictions is very, very difficult." Her tips for quitting:

- Spend time psychologically preparing.
- Don't try to quit suddenly.
- Exercise regularly
- Cut down on cravings, especially in the first six weeks, by using some form of nicotine replacement

CELIA MILNE/
FOR METRO CANADA

Bug de jour

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

NUTRITION Heard the new buzz? It's time to start eating bugs. That's right: edible bugs include cicadas, crickets, ants, grasshoppers, dragonflies (wings removed), ants and even tarantulas.

With the price of food escalating every year and the world running out of land for farming, insects — which are a rich source of protein — can no longer be ignored.

Historically, about half of the world's people, especially in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, have eaten bugs, reports National Geographic. Only in Europe and North America are we squeamish about noshing on the creepy crawly critters. But bugs are abundant and nutritious. For instance, while a hamburger is 18 per cent protein and 18 per cent fat, a cooked grasshopper is 60 per cent protein and six per cent fat.

Edible bugs are a rich source of protein.

Bon appetit!

Gaining a firm grip on unreality

HineSight

Anne Hines

This week, my 18-year-old daughter, Becky, leaves for summer camp. It's a very nice camp. Instead of tents, they have "dormitories." And their first evening campfire activity is called a "keg party."

Some of you may be thinking, "Hmm … it sounds as if Becky is going to university." If my daughter were going to university, this would mean that a) I am old, b) she's leaving me and c) I am old. She's going to camp.

It's just possible that I'm in denial. Denial is the fine art of being able to look reality full in the face and say, "No, no, I don't see anything at all."

Denial gets us through Canadian winters by saying, "Well, it can't last forever," when anyone who was in Calgary this past June knows that it absolutely can. Denial allows my sister, Kathryn, to say, "Vodka is made from potatoes. This martini is my vegetables for the day."

A simple test to know if you're in denial is to ask:

1) Am I happy?

2) Does the world seem a lovely and supportive place?

3) Do I still believe, at 2 a.m., that the piece of Ikea furniture will go together and side A will stand up in slot B, in spite of everything I've ever heard about gravity?

Denial allows my sister... to say, "Vodka is made from potatoes. This martini is my vegetables for the day."

If your answer to any of these questions was, "yes" or "I think Brad Pitt's waiting until I express interest to leave Angie," chances are, you're in denial.

Some people would say that the way to cope with my daughter leaving is to talk it over with a therapist. If you ask me, the worst time to visit a therapist is when you're having problems. The first thing they want to do is drag out everything that's upsetting you in the first place.

What we need are denial therapists: trained professionals who encourage us to get a good firm grip on unreality. Something like this:

You: I'm having a problem with my mother.

Denial Therapist: Forget about it. Have a chocolate chip cookie.

You: I don't know where my life is going.

D.T.: Try cleaning out your closet. Maybe it will go away.

So, Becky is going to camp. I am not old. The Leafs will win the Stanley cup.

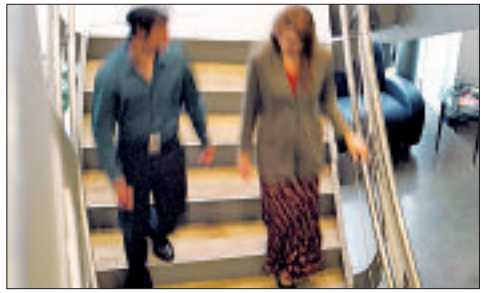
And it's not going to snow until December. No, February. Maybe never. I'm in denial. And life is good.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Stress in pregnancy may affect baby

Women who go through a traumatic event during or soon before pregnancy may be at increased risk of having an underweight baby, a large study suggests. Researchers studied more than one million Danish women who gave birth over 24 years. REUTERS

Stairway to a healthy heart



Right: Subjects of a recent Swiss study that involved walking up and down stairs for three months saw marked reduction in waist size, body fat, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Using the stairs at work instead of taking elevators could be a life saver.

A small Swiss study released yesterday showed that walking up and down stairs for three months, without recourse to the lift, increased levels of fitness dramatically.

In fact, the improvement in aerobic capacity was equivalent to a 15 per cent fall in the risk of dying prematurely from any cause.

"This suggests that stair climbing at work may have major public health implications."
Philippe Meyer of the University Hospital

Subjects also saw marked reduction in waist size, body fat, blood pressure and cholesterol — all of which are known risk factors for heart disease.

Philippe Meyer of the University Hospital in Geneva studied 69 employees of the university with a sedentary lifestyle, defined as less than two hours of exercise a week and fewer than 10 flights of stairs climbed a day.

After not using elevators for 12 weeks, they increased their use of stairs to an average of 23 stories ascended or descended a day from five before, with a resulting sharp increase in fitness levels.

"This suggests that stair climbing at work may have major public health implications," Meyer told the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology. "However, the results of the pilot study need to be confirmed in a larger randomized controlled trial." REUTERS

Poor circumcisions impair prevention

DISEASE African health workers need more training and better tools to circumcise men and boys safely for HIV prevention, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) study chronicling "shocking" rates of complications.

As many as 35 per cent of males circumcised by traditional practitioners in Kenya's Bungoma district suffered complications such as bleeding, infection, excessive pain and erectile dysfunction from the procedure, the WHO researchers found. REUTERS

New nerve cells needed for smell

RESEARCH Mature brains need a continuous supply of new nerve cells to sustain functions like smelling and memory, an experiment with mice in Japan has shown.

While the adult brain can make new nerve cells, experts have never been sure of their roles until now. These findings may explain why some stroke survivors never recover certain faculties because their brains no longer generate new cells. REUTERS

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[1]Rock CL, et al. *Obesity*. 2007;15: 939-949.

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Reubens denies CSI rumour

Actor Paul Reubens has denied reports he will make a return to TV opposite Laurence Fishburne in the hit U.S. show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Sherlock's BFF

Russell Crowe is set to play Sherlock Holmes' sidekick Dr Watson in Guy Ritchie's new film. He will star opposite Robert Downey Jr. as the fictional sleuth's confidante. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

RIGHT: Event manager Jen Graham, left, and committee member Kim Carlson ham it up at the Easter Seals Regatta.

ABOVE: Top fundraiser Elaine Reynolds, left, and PR gal Leah Carpenter cuddle up to National Bank sponsor Steven Fleckenstein at the Easter Seals Regatta.
RIGHT: A wild afro and a disco ball means it's party time on shore for Easter Seals Regatta guests Marie Ericson and Brent Pascall.

LEFT: Pirates of the Caribbean never looked like this. Captain Adam Korbin sails the open seas at the Easter Seals Regatta alongside first mates Kim Kaplan, left, and Sunny Kerr.

Guests walk plank

Johnny Depp, eat your heart out! There's a new breed of pirate in town and they're nothing but a bunch of do-gooders. Dressed in their buccaneer best, the gang at the 18th Annual National Bank Financial Easter Seals Regatta & Festival set sail on the high seas all for the benefit of the kids at Easter Seal House Vancouver. Rollicking and rowdiness ensued back on shore as the marauders and their mates partied in the park outside the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club sharing some sun, some fun and some rum. Congrats go to Astral Plane, a J109 skippered by Adam Korbin, for being the fastest boat and also to top fundraising skipper Rick Reynolds, of Occam's Razor, who raised $8,800 without even making anyone walk the plank. In total, more than $210,000 was raised for the kids. Next, we make the switch from rum to vodka and follow the trail to Yaletown and the always trendy George Ultra Lounge where nymphs and nighties ruled at the Midsummer Night's Dream party. Prizes were handed out for best legs, best lingerie and best shoes (which went to a girl wearing plain brown boots?). But the big winner this night was the extra-exclusive, luxury brand vodka Hangar One whose luscious flavours have earned it Vodka of the Year awards from both Food & Wine and Wine & Spirits magazines.

SocialEyes

Catherine 'Cat' Barr

info@catherinebarr.com

Cat calls? Submit your event at catherinebarr.com. She can also be heard on The Buzz 1410 AM Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.

ABOVE: Taking home prizes for Best Dressed and Best Shoes at the George/Hangar One Vodka night are the sister act of Lila, left, and Anelore Popa.

ABOVE: Guests, like Alician Otranto, left, and Cienya Constanneau, sip orange blossom and raspberry Hangar One Vodka at the George party.

ABOVE: Banging out the beats at the George/Hangar One party is drummer and musician extraordinaire, Bobby James.

ABOVE: Lisa Malzahn, left, Carmen Vars and Meaghan Kennedy sip and sample at the Hangar One vodka night.

RIGHT: The always amazing Grazia Cartocci and son Pierpaolo prove George is a place where beautiful people hang out.

RIGHT: Yo ho ho and a bottle of ... playing pirate at the Easter Seals Regatta are Matt Crowe and Catherine Ho.

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Sept. 3, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Simon Fraser University (Burnaby)
Sept. 4, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Simon Fraser University (Surrey)
Sept. 5, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Pacific Centre
Oakridge Centre
Park Royal Shopping Centre, West Vancouver

BURNABY
Brentwood Mall
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Royal Oak Fido Store

LANGLEY
Willowbrook Shopping Mall

PORT COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre

RICHMOND
Richmond Centre

SURREY
Guildford Town Centre

RETAIL PARTNERS

VANCOUVER
B MOBILE
665 Robson Street
CELLULAR BABY
1191 Robson Street
2460 Heather Street
Capilano Mall, North Vancouver
City Square Mall, Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre, West Vancouver
CELLUNET
6338 Fraser Street
2430 Commercial Drive
ICOREA COMMUNICATIONS
Robson Public Market
617 West Pender Street
110B-123 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver
JC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
1238 Robson Street
KINGSWAY MOBILE
1463 Kingsway Avenue
ORANGEWAVE WIRELESS
Arbutus Village
8269 Granville Street
6596 Victoria Drive
PEPPER WIRELESS
First Avenue Market, Unit 102
3189 Main Street
735 Gore Avenue
UNIPAGE
Royal Centre
3565 Kingsway
88 West Pender Street

ABBOTSFORD
SKYNET
Meadow Fair Plaza
WIRELESS WORLD
32330 South Fraser Way, Unit 4

BURNABY
CELLULAR BABY
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Metrotown Centre
ICOREA COMMUNICATIONS
Hannam Supermarket, 4501 North Road #106
ORANGEWAVE WIRELESS
Madison Centre Mall
PEPPER WIRELESS
Crystal Mall
UNIPAGE
Crystal Mall
Metrotown Centre

COQUITLAM
UNIPAGE
Henderson Mall

DELTA
WIRELESS WORLD
Scottsdale Mall

LANGLEY
ORANGEWAVE
20226 Fraser Highway, Unit 122

MAPLE RIDGE
SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
PEPPER WIRELESS
Royal City Centre

PORT COQUITLAM
SKYNET
2564 Shaughnessy Street, Unit 104
101A – 2748 Lougheed Highway

RICHMOND
CELLULAR BABY
Richmond Centre
CELLUNET
4020 No 5 Road
PEPPER WIRELESS
Yaohan Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Aberdeen Centre
Richmond Public Market
UNIPAGE
Aberdeen Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Parker Place

SURREY
ICOREA COMMUNICATIONS
1-15357 – 104th Avenue
3-13634 – 104th Avenue
NONI WIRELESS PLUS
Peninsula Village
6926 KIng George Hwy
Real Canadian Superstore, 7550 KIng George Hwy
107 - 15551 Fraser Highway
102 - 6955 – 128th Street
PEPPER WIRELESS
Central City Shopping Centre
SKYNET
7500 Scott Road, Unit 104
9182 – 120th Street
UNIPAGE
Central City Shopping Centre
WIRELESS WORLD
1 – 8388 128th Street
12845 – 96th Avenue

FUTURE SHOP
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Reyes taking off Scrubs

Actress Judy Reyes, who plays Carla Espinosa on Scrubs, is planning to leave the show at the end of its upcoming eighth year. Star Zach Braff and creator Bill Lawrence are also reportedly set to quit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

DVD picks

Married Life

Director: Ira Sachs
Rating: PG

MURDER and adultery are by definition passionate things, steeped as they are in hot-blooded emotion. Yet darned if Married Life doesn't find a way to drain the fervour out of both.

Writer/director Ira Sachs manages even greater sorcery. He turns four good actors into wooden puppets. Set in 1949 New York, Cooper is Harry, a businessman who desperately wants to leave his wife, Pat (Patricia Clarkson), because she is interested in sex, not true affection. He plots her murder to spare her the pain of divorce.

Harry is in love with the much younger Kay (McAdams), a blond tootsie who has seen a Jean Harlow movie or three. Pierce Brosnan is Harry's pal Richard, whose loyalty is tested when Kay bats her eyebrows in his direction.

It's strange how a movie with this many different things happening could be so dull. The pacing is positively funereal.

The DVD extras offer some intrigue that the movie is missing. Besides Sachs' commentary track, there are no fewer than three alternate endings, which makes Married Life a bit like playing Clue — which come to think of it, is just like real matrimony.

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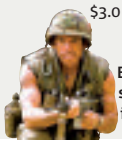
Box office

Following are the Top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning Aug. 29, according to studio estimates compiled Sunday:

1. **Tropic Thunder:** $11.5 million US
2. **Babylon A.D.:** $9.7 million
3. **The Dark Knight:** $8.8 million
4. **The House Bunny:** $8.3 million
5. **Traitor:** $7.9 million
6. **Death Race:** $6.2 million
7. **Disaster Movie:** $6.2 million
8. **Mamma Mia!:** $4.4 million
9. **Pineapple Express:** $3.5 million
10. **Vicky Cristina Barcelona:** $3.0 million

REUTERS



Ben Stiller stars in Tropic Thunder.

Going out

- 8 p.m. Battles, brings its blend of post-rock, jazz and hardcore to Vancouver. Live at Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $20. Info: richardsonrichards.com.
- 9 p.m. Celebrities Tuesdays, spinning underground electro and indie cuts. At Celebrities Night Club, 1022 Davie St. Info: celebritiesnightclub.com.
- 10 p.m. Full Tilt, with DJs Betti Forde and Trevor Risk. At Republic Nightclub, 958 Granville St. Tix: $7. Info: dhmbars.ca.
- 10 p.m. TNA Tuesdays, with DJs Brukout and Evafresh: booty bass, breakbeats, hip hop, drum & bass, and jungle. At Shine Nightclub, 364 Water St. Tix: $5, women free. Info: shinenightclub.com.

History of British Law coming to TV near you

IntelleVision

DOWN BY LAW: The fall TV season is lumbering off the blocks, with dozens of new shows premiering in the weeks to come, alongside returning series. Keeping up will be hard, and I'll try to preview some of the more interesting shows coming out, but the truth is the most interesting shows are on cable and specialty channels — a state of affairs that's become more and more undeniable with every year I've written about television.

While he's probably most famous for playing Baldrick on the British comedy series Blackadder, documentary TV buffs will recognize the puckish Tony Robinson from his role as host of Time Team, the archaeology series that's been in production for almost 15 years in the U.K., and various spin-off shows such as The Worst Jobs In History and as narrator on the reality/documentary series Airline. He's the host of a new show, Tony's Law, premiering tonight on History Television, an intriguing four-part series that looks at the evolution of the British laws that should be of interest to Canadians inasmuch as they form the basis for our own legal system.

Robinson provides the same droll, digressive persona that gave Worst Jobs its tone, with a tad more gravitas in keeping with the subject at hand, though Robinson is fond of dressing up in bits of period costume and reciting speeches on London street corners. At least one episode, though, is startlingly topical, given the spectre of terrorism and debates going on in this country right now, and Robinson traces the evolution of free speech, a pillar of enlightened civil society, back to Sir Thomas More and the tyranny of Henry VIII, through the Gunpowder Plot and the beheading of Charles I and the Glorious Revolution.

Robinson drolly points out that it would be 300 years between Charles' trial and execution, and the next time a British royal would be taken to court was a 2002 trial where Princess Anne paid £1,000 after one of her dogs bit two children at Windsor. English history, it's hard not to note with envy, is full to bursting with great stories.

It's also hard to believe that Canada has been largely unable to produce cheap, cheerful, informative shows like Tony's Law in quantity for the CBC and our variety of cable, specialty and educational channels. Self-denigrating myths to the contrary, we don't lack the history, and we certainly don't suffer from a shortage of experts. With the exception of Jeff "I Am Canadian" Douglas, though, it's hard to name any actor, journalist or public figure eager to moonlight as the public face of such a show, which might be the problem.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Former Bachelor to unite couple

Pappas

TV Bachelorette DeAnna Pappas and her fiancé, Jesse Csincsak, are getting married next year — and in a twist befitting their reality-TV romance, former Bachelor Andy Baldwin will perform the ceremony, intouchweekly.com reports. "Andy is a certified minister," an insider explains.

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/2/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Laughs	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	The Tudors "Episode 7"		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Real Housewives of OC		Simple Life	Kardashians	Pam	Sunset Tan	News (N)
	254	-	8 M	2Half Men	2Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Canadian Idol	The Hills	Without a Trace (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	Islam 101 (CC)		Jozi-H "Beginnings" (CC)		The Daily	The Search	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set" (CC)				Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Got Talent Ten of the top 40 contestants perform.				Wanna Bet? (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Rain Man ★★★★ (1988, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino. (CC)						Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set" (CC)				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Republican Convention		KIRO News	Entertainment	NCIS "Judgment Day" (CC)		Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Republican Convention		America's Got Talent Ten of the top 40 contestants perform.				Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Coleen's Real Women		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked		Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Republican Convention		Wipeout (CC)		(:02) Wanna Bet? (CC)		Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	The Ex ★★ (1996, Suspense) Yancy Butler, Suzy Amis.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Republican Convention		Nova (CC) (DVS)		Wide Angle "Iraqi Exodus"		The Pact (CC) (DVS)		Walking-Bible
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House House searches for a bus passenger he believes is ill.				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	28 PBS	Republican Convention		Office Gossip	Perfect	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Nova (CC) (DVS)	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set" (CC)				KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	38 WGN	MLB Baseball: Astros at Cubs		WGN News	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set" (CC)				Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	13 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Wipeout (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	23 NW	Prince of Pot-US vs Emery		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Prince of Pot-US vs Emery		National
	500	500	33 CNN	(3:00) Republican National Convention (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Saturday Night Poker		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	U.S. Open Tennis		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Boxing Celerino Dario Labarda vs. Steve Molitor. (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman		Angry Planet
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Low Life	SuperCars	Super Bikes!
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol		Gol TV News		Kings Club	Kings Club	Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Sixteen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Rick & Steve
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Treetown	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Gardens	Recreat. Eden	The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam ★★★		The Longest Road				Biking
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT30 "Craven 2008"		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Greek "Hazed and Confused"		Pimp My Ride	disBand	Technical Diff.	MuchVibe (CC)	
	600	564	29 H&G	The Stagers	Green Force	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Dirty Business	Outside	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		The Stagers
	615	520	31 A&E	The Cleaner "House of Pain"		The Cleaner "House of Pain"		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The Cleaner
	628	584	42 SPKE	(6:00) Star Wars IV: A New Hope ★★★★ (1977)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager "Life Line"		Deep Space 9
	521	560	44 TLC	Dr. G: Medical Examiner		160 Lb. Tumor (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Twins, Twins
	616	522	46 SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years "Vertigo"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	House "Euphoria" (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Law & Order "Ritual" (CC)		Without a Trace "911" (CC)		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		A Mighty Wind
	601	562	41 SLC	Plastic-Perfect	Matchmaker	Newlywed	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride (CC)		Plastic-Perfect	Matchmaker	Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	After the Catch "Brothers" (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Smash Lab (CC)		After the Catch "Brothers"		How It's Made
	522	506	48 HIS	NCIS "Shalom" (CC)		The Worst Jobs in History		Tony's Law British law. (CC)		NCIS "Shalom" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Trekkies 2 ★★ (2004)		Stargate SG-1 "End Game"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	57 TBS	The Office	The Office	Raising the Bar "Pilot" (CC)		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Beverly Hills Ninja ★ (1997) Chris Farley.		
	619	525	58 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Planet Soap	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	603	561	62 FN	Top Chef "Restaurant Wars"		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		HEAT	HEAT	Top Chef
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.	Jon Dore	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Alive Day Memories: Home		Thank You, Mr. President		Shake Hands With the Devil ★★ (2007) Roy Dupuis. (CC)				Shake Hands
	581	566	101 MTV	From G's to Gents (N) (CC)		MTV Live	After	Making the Band 4 (CC)		From G's to Gents (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Agatha ★★★ (1979, Romance) Dustin Hoffman. (CC)				Agatha ★★★ (1979, Romance) Dustin Hoffman. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Il Caffe		In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz	Euro. Journal	Patrol World

critics' corner

A Mighty Wind
Writer-director Christopher Guest applies the humorous approach that was successful for him in "Best in Show" and "Waiting for Guffman" to this equally sly 2003 comedy about the folk-music world. A promoter's death unites three of the groups he represented, but not all of the members are eager to take part in a tribute concert. Guest stars include ex-"Spinal Tap"-mates Michael McKean and Harry Shearer, as well as Parker Posey. 5 PM on BVO

The Cleaner
Is this a simple case of addiction or a death wish? In the new episode "House of Pain," William (Benjamin Bratt) is asked to help a promising prep-school basketball player with a multiple drug problem. The youngster's father resists his efforts, but a bigger problem is the boy himself, whose reckless behavior tells William that he may be trying to kill himself. 7 PM on A&E

Star photog snaps back at debt talk

Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz, who came under fire for singer-actress Miley Cyrus' provocative Vanity Fair shoot in May, has denied claims she is more than $715,000 US in debt. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay after Olympic star

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan has reportedly been pleading with Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps for a date, imdb.com reports.

The actress is said to have bombarded the U.S. gold-medal winner with calls and text messages asking him to take her out.

His cool response hasn't put her off, because the more he ignores her, the harder she tries.

"At first he thought it was a joke when she got in touch. But she's since been phoning and texting constantly," a source tells Britain's Daily Mirror. "It's become a running joke in his camp. Lindsay has been trying to meet up with him. They're both going to the MTV Video Music Awards next month so they'll be sure to see each other properly then. Phelps is certainly flattered by all the attention but it's not clear how seriously he's taking it all."

According to People magazine, however, Phelps is enjoying single life.

"I don't feel any different," he says, 14 Olympic medals later. "I'm just having fun with this."

Rumours had Phelps dating Nicole Johnson, a former Miss California USA runner-up.

"I never said I have a girlfriend, and I never said I don't have a girlfriend," Phelps tells People. "My public and private life are separate. I keep my private life to myself."

Johnson tells reporters she and Phelps are "good friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

David opens up about sex

PEOPLE David Duchovny has never been one to shy away from the topic of sex in interviews over the years, People.com reports.

But the actor, who has now entered a rehabilitation centre for sex addiction, was always quick to add that his marriage to actress Téa Leoni was a pretty good reason to keep his libido in check.

"Twelve years ago, I would have been hard-pressed to understand why I'd want to be involved sexually with one person this long," the X Files and Californication actor told Best Life magazine earlier this year.

"Before Téa, the longest my intense sexual interest would last would be maybe two years," he said. "But the real rewards of a relationship come after you've been together a while. That's where Téa and I are lucky."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Beau didn't buy Naomi house

COUPLES Supermodel Naomi Campbell has denied reports she accepted an expensive gift from boyfriend Vladimir Doronin — a new home in Brazil, imdb.com reports.

The catwalk star also insisted she doesn't allow men to buy her presents.

"If I want to buy a house, I'll buy my own," she says. "I don't need a man for that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Too busy for baby: Victoria

PEOPLE Victoria Beckham has laughed off reports that she is eager for a fourth child, because she is far too busy looking after her three sons, imdb.com reports.

The singer has spoken about her desire for a new baby in the past, but insists now is not the right time to add to her brood with soccer ace husband David.

"I can't even think about having another baby right now. The boys take up so much of my time," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

James ties the knot

COUPLES James Gandolfini and fiancée Deborah Lin tied the knot Saturday in her hometown of Honolulu, Hawaii, People.com reports.

"There was a nice big kiss at the end with both hands on the cheeks" as The Sopranos star and Lin officially became husband and wife, the guest tells People. "They looked great."

As a group of their closest friends and family looked on, Gandolfini, 46, and Lin, a former model, 40, exchanged their vows in an intimate ceremony surrounded by white lilies and rhododendrons adorning every pew held at Central Union Church.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ashlee responds to weighty story

PEOPLE Pregnant singer Ashlee Simpson has hit out at reports she is desperate to lose her baby weight, female-first.co.uk reports.

In a posting on her MySpace blog, Simpson writes: "My doctor says I am right on target with my weight gain .... My weight and my pant size are the absolute last thing I am concerned about. I am only concerned with having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So actor **David Duchovny** is in a rehab centre for sex addiction. In other news, the television series Californication, in which he plays a writer struggling with his compulsive desire to bed women, is just about to debut its second season. Coincidence?

Remember when actors simply did the talk-show circuit to hype their projects? Now, it appears that some public relations genius heard about the method acting technique and decided to apply it, in reverse, to publicize shows.

My spidey senses first tingled when wealthy manchild actor **Owen Wilson** allegedly attempted suicide just prior to the release of The Darjeeling Limited, in which he played a wealthy but suicidally-depressed manchild. I maintain the only thing Wilson attempted was publicity. But let's face it, the ploy wouldn't work unless the reality-TV genre, part of the ongoing dumbing-down of society at large, hadn't successfully eroded the ability of the general public to realize IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE!

The debate rages. Is this just a cynical ploy to get people talking about Californication, or has Duchovny really got a problem? Only his wife, actress **Téa Leoni**, and perhaps a couple hundred groupies know for sure.

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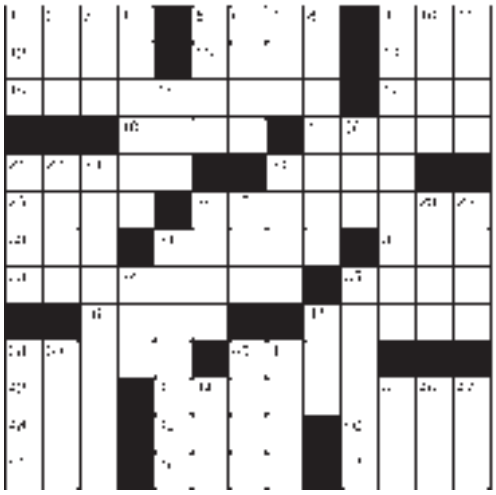
PCTIA ACCREDITED

This bloke is broke

Guy Ritchie has branded rumours he and wife Madonna are set to renew their wedding vows as "rubbish," because he spent too much money on her 50th birthday celebrations on Aug. 16. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Plagiarize
2 Tackle the slopes
3 — rose
4 Pirate-costume feature
5 Small barrels
6 In good order
7 Shade source
8 Shoelaces go through them
9 City of India
10 Notion
11 Cereal container
16 "Days of — Lives"
20 Ostrich's cousin
21 Raced
22 Lotion additive
23 One-story houses
24 Highway division
26 Actress Ward
27 Chum
28 Tennis situation
29 Membership
31 Late-spring beetle
34 Response (Abbr.)
35 Battery terminals
37 See 41-Down
38 Basketball team
39 Tiny particle
40 "Bus Stop" playwright
41 With 37-Down, way back when
44 Raw rock
45 Regret
46 Samovar
47 Witticism

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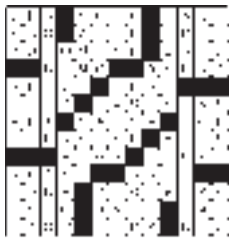
Crossword across

1 Answer an invite
5 Dandling locale
9 Clothing protector
12 Tom Joad, e.g.
13 Slithery
14 Big fuss
15 Its participants must form a line
17 Fresh
18 A deadly sin
19 Within the rules
21 Cavalry sword
24 Golf legend Tony
25 Advertise
26 Burger flippers
30 A billion years
31 Casual pants
32 Keatsian poem
33 Paris airport, familiarly
35 Met melody
36 King of Siam's employee
37 Concerning
38 Untrue
40 Othello's foe
42 Judge Lance
43 It was beat by beatniks
48 Solemn promise
49 Incite
50 Modern-day money
51 Type squares
52 The Bee —
53 Faxed

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
People are using you as a resource person. Speak up if you're unfairly accused of malicious intent. A different financial cycle begins.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Thrills abound when somebody shares long-withheld information. Find a way to take an afternoon nap. Accusations of laziness will get around.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't alienate everyone you know. There's an abundance of energy in the air. Anxiety melts away after noon, so don't let it ruin your morning.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An apparent desertion is really an attempt to be kind. Spending time on an emotional seesaw tires you. Idle chatter produces feelings of goodwill.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A friend settles one debt by initiating another. Someone calls to give a compliment. Parental units are craving a visit.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An attractive person's sweet smile creates a jolly ambiance. Someone must be told the terrible truth. Take a walk on the wild side.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's lots of moving and shaking going on. You've grown tired of a nonsensical situation. The tide will turn for the better this evening.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Take special care while travelling. Personal objects are not where they should be. Sharing a secret about your dreams gets you nowhere.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Your social status will rise. Ask for crucial decisions to be made by others. You'll remember what you need once you get somewhere.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A man is in a much better mood and will listen to you. Don't trust machinery to work properly. Watch your language and avoid temper tantrums.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A win-win situation develops. Plan to get a complete personal makeover. Take a walk to refresh your powers of observation.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
Shun those who offer unconvincing arguments for bad conduct. Keep your eyes peeled for good stuff. Purchase new bedding and a winter coat.

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Sudoku

3					6	5	7	
	5			1		4	2	
6			7					9
				2			9	7
		4				1		
7	2			8				
4					5			3
	7	3		6			4	
	8	9	2					1

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

9	8	1	3	6	4	2	5	7
4	6	5	2	1	7	8	9	3
3	2	7	8	9	5	1	6	4
5	7	8	6	2	3	9	4	1
1	3	2	4	7	9	5	8	6
6	9	4	5	8	1	3	7	2
8	5	3	7	4	2	6	1	9
7	1	6	9	3	8	4	2	5
2	4	9	1	5	6	7	3	8

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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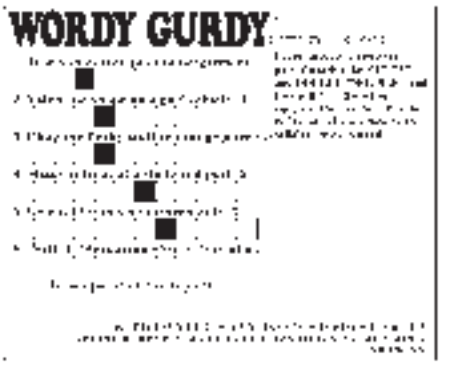
WORDY GURDY



Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Variable. 16°	Variable. Low 12°	Variable. 18°/10°	Sunny. 20°/11°	Variable. 19°/12°

Temperature
Normals
High: 20.7°
Low: 11.7°

Records
High: 27.2°/1974
Low: 6.7°/1960

Sunrise: 6:31 a.m.
Sunset: 7:52 p.m.
Moonrise: 10:04 a.m.
Moonset: 8:33 p.m.

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VANCOUVER

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